



# The Providence Report

Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Special Edition

2006 Virginia General Assembly

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## A message from Supervisor Smyth...

Welcome to our special edition of the Providence Report. This issue focuses on the current General Assembly session and Fairfax County's legislative package. Every fall the Fairfax Board of Supervisors, meeting in legislative committee, drafts positions and initiatives that the county will present for consideration in the General Assembly. After a public hearing, the Board of Supervisors adopts the legislative package and introduces it to local state legislators at a meeting in December.

At the same time the Board is developing the Fairfax package, the county is also working with the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) and the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) on positions of common interest. Through these organizations Fairfax County gains allies and more broad based support for legislative measures with widespread impact.

Our special edition contains highlights of the county's legislative package as well as those of NVRC and VACo. More detailed information on these positions is available on the respective web sites. The progress of bills in the General Assembly can be tracked at [www.leg1.state.va.us/](http://www.leg1.state.va.us/), or at meetings of the Board of Supervisors' legislative committee. The schedule for these meetings, which are open to the public, is found at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/).

State legislation can have a profound effect on local jurisdictions. We hope that this special edition will help Providence residents to understand better the state legislative process and to participate in it.

—Linda Smyth •

**Has there been a change in officers in your Homeowners or Civic Association? Please update us by calling or emailing us.**

## How Bills Become Laws

*Adopted from the Virginia General Assembly's  
~Citizen's Guide ~*

- A Delegate or Senator has an idea for a bill, usually from a constituent.
- He or she presents the idea to the Division of Legislative Services and requests that it be drafted into a bill. The bill is signed by the patron, introduced, and printed.
- The bill is referred to an appropriate committee. The members of the committee consider the bill and decide what action to take. This is when the public may speak.
- *First Reading:* The bill title is printed in the Calendar or is read by the Clerk, and the bill advances to second reading.
- *Second Reading:* The next day the bill title appears in the printed Calendar on second reading. Bills are considered in the order in which they appear on the Calendar. The Clerk reads the title of the bill a second time. A bill on second reading is amendable and debatable. A bill that has passed second reading with or without an amendment is engrossed. If an amendment is adopted, the bill is reprinted in its final form for passage.
- *Third Reading:* The next day, the engrossed bill title appears in the Calendar on third reading. The title is read a third time by the Clerk. By recorded vote, the bill is passed or fails.
- *Communication:* When passed, the bill is sent to the other body, either by the Clerk in a written communication or by a member in person, informing the other body that the bill has passed.
- *In the other body:* The bill goes through essentially the same procedure as it did in the house of origin. The bill title is printed in the Calendar or is read by the Clerk, the bill is referred to a standing committee, considered, and reported by the committee. The title is read a second and third time before passage.

*Article continued on page 8*

## Fairfax County Legislative Positions: 2006 Virginia General Assembly

### **Courts - Funding for Pretrial Services and Community Corrections Programs:**

Support additional State funding to support the Pretrial Services Act and the Comprehensive Community Corrections Act grant programs. These programs benefit the community as well pretrial defendants and sentenced offenders. They allow low-risk defendants awaiting trial and sentenced offenders to work, receive treatment, pay taxes, and in the case of offenders, to pay restitution and perform community service.

### **Environment – Tree Preservation:**

Support legislation endorsed by the Environmental Quality Advisory Council that would enable Northern Virginia jurisdictions to require the preservation of trees and woodlands when these exist on sites prior to development.

### **Funding**

- **Four-for-Life:**

Support the full annual return of that portion of Four-for-Life funds allocated to localities for emergency medical services, without any further diversion of such funds by the State. Such diversion has occurred since the 2002-2004 Biennium Budget; oppose any budget language which would enable the continuation of the diversion of the Four-for-Life funds by the State.

- **Human Services:**

#### **Medicaid:**

Support revisions to Virginia's State Medicaid Plan that improve the State's position in leveraging the federal funds available through the Medicaid program to meet the fundamental health care needs of the State's most vulnerable citizens. Even as the overall federal Medicaid program is undergoing review, Virginia must: improve eligibility limits; increase payment rates for critical services; enhance options for community based long term care services; and support the development of community-based services.

- **Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services:**

Support the transformation of Virginia's system of mental health, mental retardation and substance abuse services to better leverage State and federal funds and improve access to fundamental services in the community and, where needed, within State facilities. To achieve this objective, Virginia must: fund the further development of community-based services; ensure an adequate number of inpatient psychiatric beds in every region of the State and continue funding to develop services for MR Waiver Recipients.

- **Jail Operations:**

Support additional State revenues to compensate localities at a level which is commensurate with the State's responsibility for local jail operations by taking the following actions:

- Adequately compensate local jails for state prisoners at a reimbursement rate that recognizes actual housing, food and medical costs.
- Meet the statutory requirement to transfer State-ready inmates (prisoners who have reached the 61<sup>st</sup> day after a court-ordered conviction) to State facilities in a timely manner.
- Appropriate funds to fulfill the Compensation Board's commitment to local jails; establish a Northern Virginia pay differential for salary reimbursements for State-approved positions, to reflect the highly competitive Northern Virginia job market.
- Recognize new State mandates, such as the recent revisions to DUI laws, through additional State funding to localities to assist with the increased local confinement costs.

- **Rehabilitative Services Incentive Funds:**

Support full restoration of the Rehabilitative Services Incentive Fund to the FY 2002 level of \$912,500 to address gaps in services, support innovative programs, and improve coordination in service delivery to improve the quality of life for persons with physical and/or sensory disabilities. Furthermore, oppose any legislation that calls for a decrease in such funds.

- **Virginia Land Conservation Fund:**

Support increased funding for the Virginia Land Conservation Fund (VLCF).

- **Water Quality Improvement Fund:**

Support increased funding for the Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) with consideration of a dedicated source of revenue.

*Article continued on page 3*

## **Fairfax County Legislative Positions: 2006 Virginia General Assembly**

*Continued from previous page*

### **Land Use**

- **Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance:**

Support legislation to give localities authority to adopt an adequate public facilities ordinance. The legislation should: 1) permit localities to adopt provisions in their subdivision ordinances for deferring the approval of subdivision plats or site plans when it is determined that existing schools, roads, public safety, sewer or water facilities are inadequate to support the proposed development; 2) provide that an expressed purpose of zoning ordinances is to protect against an undue rate of development in relation to existing or available public facilities; and 3) not require localities to construct the necessary infrastructure within a timeframe established by the General Assembly.

- **Transferable Development Rights:**

Support legislation that would authorize any local government, by ordinance, to establish a Transferable Development Rights (TDR) program with the caveat that disincentives for localities to enact TDR ordinances are not part of such legislation, such as prohibition on the rezoning of property in the sending and receiving zones after the adoption of a transferable development rights program.

### **Library – State Aid Formula CAP:**

Support legislation to permanently remove the population “cap” from the State’s library funding formula.

### **Motor Vehicles – Mopeds, Pocket Bikes and Scooters:**

Support legislation that would seek the registration and licensing of all mopeds and similar vehicles operated on public streets and the licensing of all operators of any such vehicles on public streets. Also, support legislation that will increase penalties for violating current law pertaining to such vehicles. Currently, a study is underway which will make recommendations for the upcoming General Assembly.

### **Procurement – Multiple awards for Professional Services:**

Support legislation to amend Virginia Code § 2.2-4301 3a to permit multiple awards for the procurement of professional services. The ability to award contracts to more than one bidder or offeror would increase administrative efficiency particularly for engineering and medical services. With one exception for basic ordering agreements, current law allows multiple awards only for goods and non-professional services.

### **Public Safety:**

#### **24-Hour Lockout for Commercial Eviction:**

Support legislation to amend Virginia Code §2.255-237.1 to extend the “24-hour lockout” rule to businesses regarding both business and personal property. This proposal would allow landlords the option of evicting all property from within the premises to the right-of-way, or using a “24-hour lockout” provision to store the property.

#### **Access to Health Records:**

Support a joint study by the Joint Commission on Health Care and the Crime Commission to determine if the State health records privacy law is restrictive beyond the federal law, HIPPA, thus creating an impediment to law enforcement investigations. A study on this issue of balancing patient privacy with public safety is necessary to consider its impact on the residents of the Commonwealth. Such a study was directed by the 2004 General Assembly, but was postponed to an unspecific future time.

#### **Dangerous Weapons in Public Facilities:**

Support legislation to allow the County to adopt an ordinance prohibiting the possession of dangerous weapons in or on any facility or property owned or leased by the County, with certain exceptions, including any person who has been issued a permit to carry a concealed handgun. Violation of such an ordinance would be punishable as a misdemeanor. It is particularly important that the County have such authority for any facility or property owned or leased by the County serving large populations of youth under the age of 18. Current law permits private property owners to decide whether or not to permit dangerous weapons on their property.

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## **Fairfax County Legislative Positions: 2006 Virginia General Assembly**

*Continued from previous page*

### **Sex Offenders:**

Support legislation which would strengthen registration requirements for the Virginia Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry, including clarifying institutional responsibility for registering offenders and requiring offenders who legally change their names to reregister. In addition, support increased funding for personnel and resources to implement enhanced reporting requirements and an improved Registry.

Support legislation preventing violent sex offenders from obtaining geriatric releases prior to completion of their sentences. Additionally, support legislative or budget actions which would provide resources for greater oversight of those sex offenders released into the community, including more intensive monitoring by probation and parole officers and improved and expanded notification of community members.

Other proposals under consideration by the Crime Commission's Sex Offender Task Force which merit consideration for the 2006 General Assembly include enhancing penalties for sexually violent predators most likely to recidivate; enhanced community containment programs for those released from correctional facilities; and improved screening for civil commitment.

### **Revenue Capacity and Core Local Needs:**

Despite significant State revenue changes enacted in the 2004 extended session, the local tax structure remains unchanged, is becoming antiquated, and lacks the diversification necessary to fund ever-growing local core services/needs. Fairfax County, along with member jurisdictions of VACo, remains willing and able to assist the State government in addressing compelling issues facing the Commonwealth. The County asks for collaborative solutions that recognize the unique strengths of each level of government. Actions are needed to:

- Support funding of State and local shared responsibilities.
- Support diversification of local revenue base.
- Preserve and not further restrict local authority. Currently, 90% of Fairfax County revenues are capped, limited, or controlled by the State. Such actions do not allow localities to structure the local tax base to reflect the local economy or the needs and aspirations of their residents.
- Fully fund the costs of mandates placed on local governments.

### **Taxation – Car Tax Relief:**

Support increased State funding to reimburse localities statewide the full 70 percent State subsidy pledged by the General Assembly; otherwise, over time the result of the cap will be an effective increase in the percentage of car tax that must be paid by County taxpayers.

### **Telecommunications/Communications Services – Tax Restructuring and other Positions:**

In response to the telecommunications and other industries' proposed changes to the local tax structure, Fairfax County opposes any reduction or diminution of local government taxing authority by the State, including that for telecommunications.

### **Youth – Fairfax Partnership for Youth:**

Seek State and federal support for the Partnership and other County initiatives to help stem the growth of gangs in Fairfax County. Also, support legislation to require regular statewide application of a comprehensive youth risk behavior survey in sufficient numbers for local sub-unit analysis.

A more detailed information on the Fairfax County Legislative Positions: 2006 Virginia General Assembly and the Critical Needs in Human Services Issue Paper are available on the following county Web site at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/2006legisprogram.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/2006legisprogram.pdf) or by calling the Office of the County Executive at 703-324-2531, TTY 711. ■



Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in all county programs, services and activities. Special accommodations will be provided upon request. For information call our office at 703-560-6946, TTY 711.

## **Fairfax County Legislative Initiatives: 2006 Virginia General Assembly**

### ***Housing - Condominium Conversion:***

Initiate legislation to require notification by the State Real Estate Board to the Chief Administrative Officer of each locality when an application for condominium conversion is filed with the Real Estate Board, to include the name of the applicant and the location of the property. Initiate legislation to allow tenants, of the greater of one unit or up to five percent of the total number of units, to transfer their right to purchase their units to the local housing authority or other qualified non-profit entity during a condominium conversion, as may be determined by the County, with preference to be given to tenants who are elderly or disabled.

### ***Interest on Blight Abatement Tax Liens:***

Initiate legislation to amend current law to allow the County to collect interest, at the judgment rate, on the costs of blight abatement.

### ***Human Rights Ordinance: Sexual Orientation:***

Initiate/support legislation to permit the County, as an urban county executive form of government, to prohibit discrimination in the areas of housing, real estate transactions, employment, public accommodations, credit, and education on the basis of sexual orientation. Fairfax County already has taken actions pursuant to existing State enabling legislation in the preceding areas on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, child birth, and disability.

### ***Land Use – Affidavits:***

Initiate legislation to amend Virginia Code § 15.2-852 pertaining to the urban county executive form of government to provide that the filing of an affidavit would not be required for land use applications where the Board of Supervisors is the “applicant” and the application property consists of more than ten parcels under different ownership; also, clarify that, in the case of an amendment to the zoning ordinance, the affidavit requirement applies only to amendments to the zoning map.

### ***Land Use - Public Improvement Bonds:***

Initiate legislation to allow Fairfax County to impose increased requirements on certain developers regarding: i) the type of security that may be used to secure satisfactory completion of subdivision or site plan improvements; ii) the percentage of estimated construction costs that the developer must provide to cover the County’s administrative expenses, inflation, and potential damages; and iii) the maximum percentage of the security that must be released prior to final completion of the required improvements. The increased requirements could be imposed on developers who have not met all previous land development obligations in accordance with all development agreements with the County in the seven years prior to the submission of a proposed subdivision or site plan.

### ***Personnel – Retirement Benefits:***

Initiate legislation to give Fairfax County Health Department employees hired prior to July 1, 1995, the option to transfer within County government and remain in the Virginia Retirement System.

### ***Transportation – Blue Star Memorial Highway:***

Initiate legislation to designate Old Keene Mill Road in the Springfield area of Fairfax County and a Blue Star Memorial Highway.

### ***Zoning – Overcrowding:***

Initiate legislation to allow localities to increase the penalty for overcrowding violations of the local zoning ordinance and the building code; such penalties would be classified as a Class 1 misdemeanor, with the penalty upon conviction of a fine of up to \$2,500 and up to one year in jail, with each day being separate offense.

### ***Public Safety - Brandishing a Machete:***

Initiate legislation making the brandishing of a machete a violation in the same way that brandishing a firearm is now a violation and making such brandishing a predicate criminal act.

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# Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC)

*“The Voice of Northern Virginia”*

The Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) is a regional council of local governments in Northern Virginia. The NVRC represents 14 cities, counties and towns on issues of regional significance and assists its members in developing cooperative strategies to address multi-jurisdictional problems and challenges.

## 2006 Legislative Program – NVRC

*~ Regional Positions Highlighted ~*

### Transportation Funding:

NVRC and the Northern Virginia jurisdictions support additional state transportation funding for highway, transit, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, including:

- Significantly increased transportation for all modes from a stable, reliable and permanent sources.
- Full funding of the Commonwealth's statutory 95% share of transit and operating and capital costs (cost: approximately \$200 million in additional funds).
- Approve a dedicated funding sources for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) that consists of a one-quarter cent on the sales and use tax in WMATA's Northern Virginia jurisdictions, subject to approval by governing bodies representing 90% of the population in those five jurisdictions.

### Funding for Birmingham Green Adult Care Residence for Capital Expansion:

NVRC supports a one-time State General Fund capital appropriation of \$1.75 million to fund the expansion of the Birmingham Green Assisted Living Facility which provides long term care within the region for low-income Northern Virginians.

### Funding for Certain Court System Employees:

NVRC supports increased state funding for magistrates, court employees, public defenders and probation officers.

### Photo Red Programs:

NVRC supports legislation that would reinstate photo red authority for jurisdictions.

### Pedestrian Safety:

NVRC supports legislation that requires all drivers statewide to stop – not just yield – at marked crosswalks where the speed limit does not exceed 35 miles per hour. Such legislation would allow localities to provide for enhanced penalties for failure to yield to pedestrians, thereby improving the safety of pedestrians attempting to cross streets and the use of marked crosswalks.

*Continued in the next column*

### Psychiatric Bed Crisis in Northern Virginia:

NVRC supports state funding to provide remedies to the region's critical lack of access to psychiatric beds for inpatient treatment:

- Increase the daily rate paid to hospitals for Temporary Detention Order (TDO) beds and provide funding for this increase.
- Amend the current (FY 06) state budget by adding \$615,000 for the purchase of psychiatric beds, including TDO beds, in Northern Virginia.
- Include \$965,000 in ongoing funding to provide the community services needed to successfully discharge 25 patients who are on the Extraordinary Barriers to Discharge List at Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute.

### Funding for the Response to Federal BRAC (Base Realignment & Closure) Decisions:

NVRC supports inclusion of sufficient funds in the state budget to:

- Support retention of the military research functions in the region and oppose efforts by any other state to seek their relocation.
- Assist in recovery from the significant economic impacts of the BRAC process.
- Ensure significant fiscal resources to address the enormous planning and transportation issues raised by the relocation of up to 21,000 defense workers to Ft. Belvoir and 3,000 defense workers to Quantico.

### Immigration Law:

NVRC supports stricter federal action to improve the enforcement of federal immigration laws and policies by federal agencies. The NVRC opposes new federal or state action that would compromise its ability to deliver local government programs and services that benefit or protect the community as a whole. The NVRC further opposes state or federal legislation that would mandate local governments to enforce federal immigration laws, especially in the area of law enforcement.

Information on the NVRC's 2006 Legislative Program is available on the following NVRC Web site at: [www.novaregion.org](http://www.novaregion.org) or at 703-626-7392, TTY 711. ■

## VACo's 2006 Legislative Priorities

*The Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) exists to support county officials and to effectively represent, promote and protect the interests of counties to better serve the people of Virginia.*

### **Transportation Funding:**

To avoid a major congestion and mobility crisis, VACo urges the 2006 General Assembly to approve increased revenues for transportation that are separate, reliable and permanent.

### **Education Funding:**

VACo supports full funding for public education, which should be achieved without reduction to other parts of the federal and state public education budget or other federal or state programs affecting local governments.

### **Land Use/Growth Management Tools:**

Authority to plan and regulate land use should remain with local governing bodies and VACo opposes any legislation to weaken that authority. Furthermore, the General Assembly should grant localities the tools necessary to adequately meet citizens' increasing needs that are driven by rapid residential development.

### **Eminent Domain:**

VACo supports ensuring that the rights of property owners continue to be respected while preserving the necessary powers of local government and governmental agencies to avoid and abate blighted conditions through redevelopment. VACo supports preserving condemnation authority provided for public purposes such as schools, parks, roads, and other purposes as set out in the Code of Virginia.

### **Unfunded Mandates:**

VACo opposes unfunded mandates by the state government. VACo further opposes the shifting of fiscal responsibility from the state to localities for existing programs.

### **Medicaid Cost-Shifting:**

VACo opposes any shifting of Medicaid matching requirements from the state to localities.

### **Ensure Local Control Over Local Revenue Stream:**

VACo opposes any effort to restrict or limit the sources of revenue available to local governments such as limiting the growth of real estate revenue, real estate assessments, real estate tax rates, personal property taxation and/or BPOL.

### **Funding for Water Quality Improvements:**

VACo supports additional state funding and technical assistance to help localities improve water quality in a manner consistent with the 2000 Chesapeake Bay Agreement. VACo opposes the imposition of a state fee, tax or surcharge on water, sewer, solid waste or any other service provided by a local government or authority.

### **Home Energy Assistance Program:**

VACo urges the governor to allocate additional funds this winter to the Energy Assistance Program, which benefits low-income Virginians with home heating assistance. VACo also urges the General Assembly to appropriate state funds to the program during the 2006 session.

### **Local Administrative Costs for CSA:**

The General Assembly should increase state funding for the local administrative costs of the Comprehensive Services Act. State support for local administration of this critical program has not increased since 2000 and remains inadequate at less than one percent of the current pool fund expenditures.

### **Base Realignment and Closure Commission:**

VACo urges the General Assembly to consider the effects of BRAC's decisions on Virginia's economic development efforts, tourism, transportation system and environmental quality.

*Article continued on page 8*

## VACo's 2006 Legislative Priorities

*Continued from page 7*

### Telecommunications Tax Restructuring:

Local governments must be guaranteed – on a locality-by-locality basis – adequate and growing communications services tax revenues in exchange for the local right of entry and regulation, adequate local consumer protection and services, and efficient local public safety answering point operations (E-911 call centers).

More information on VACo positions is located on the following VACo Web site: [www.vaco.org](http://www.vaco.org). ▪

## How Bills Become Laws

*Continued from front page*

- *The Committee of Conference:* If the House amends a Senate bill, or the Senate amends a House bill, and the house of origin disagrees with the amendment, a conference committee, usually three members from each legislative body, may be formed to resolve differences.

- *Enrollment:* After being passed by both houses of the General Assembly, the bill is printed as an enrolled bill, examined, and signed by the presiding officer of each chamber.

- *Governor:* The bill is then sent to the Governor for his approval. After being signed by the Governor, the bill is sent to the Clerk of the House (Keeper of the Rolls of the Commonwealth) and is assigned a chapter number. All chapters of a session are compiled and bound as the Acts of Assembly.

- Bills that become law at a regular session (or the reconvened session that follows) are effective the first day of July following adjournment of the regular session unless otherwise specified.

More information on "How Bills Become Laws" is available on the following Virginia General Assembly Web site at: [http://legis.state.va.us/cit\\_guide/gen\\_assem/how\\_bills.html](http://legis.state.va.us/cit_guide/gen_assem/how_bills.html). ▪

## Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and School Board

### *Joint Legislative Positions – 2006 General Assembly*

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the School Board jointly support the following positions on these critical issues:

- Continued General Assembly attention to state funding of public education through the Standards of Quality (SOQ) and other programs.
- Enhanced revenue capacity for localities to address pressing public education capital costs and other local needs
- Flexibility and additional resources to carry out the federal mandates under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA 2004).
- After-School Programs/At-Risk Youth/Gang Prevention

The above positions are also supported by the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC).

More Information on the Joint Legislative Positions is available on the following Fairfax County Public School Web site at: [www.fcps.k12.va.us/legupdate/finallegprog.pdf](http://www.fcps.k12.va.us/legupdate/finallegprog.pdf) or by calling the School Board at 703-246-3646, TTY 711. ▪

## Capitol Classroom

The Capitol Classroom is an online information resource for students and teachers that offer various opportunities for observation and participation in the legislative process. Some of the ways the Capitol Classroom provides resources are on how to become a page; how bills become laws; historical facts and information; how to schedule a tour of the State Capitol; scrapbooks and puzzles; and other fun and interesting ways of learning the legislative process.



Information on the Capitol Classroom is available on the following Virginia General Assembly Web site: [legis.state.va.us/cap\\_class/cap\\_class\\_welcome.html](http://legis.state.va.us/cap_class/cap_class_welcome.html). ▪



## Fairfax County Legislative Initiatives: 2006 Virginia General Assembly

*Continued from page 5*

### **Public Safety - Teen Driving:**

Initiate comprehensive youth highway safety legislation to reduce motor vehicle crashes which are the leading cause of death among 10 to 15 years olds nationwide. Last year 65 people lost their lives on County roads, and the number of those victims who were 21 years or younger was an astonishing 13 fatalities or 20 percent. The following initiatives, developed as a result of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Teen Driving Summit, are:

- Amend current laws for violations of curfew and limits on underage passengers for drivers under the age of 18 by changing such secondary offences to primary offences. Secondary offences require observation of a primary offence for a law enforcement officer to initiate enforcement action.
- Create a new requirement to ban use of wireless communication devices while operating a motor vehicle by drivers under the age of 18.
- Change the current seat belt infraction from a secondary offense to a primary offense.
- Review laws and success rates in Virginia and other states that have enacted a Graduate Driver's License (GDL) Program for possible additional legislation.

More information on the Fairfax County Legislative Initiatives: 2006 Virginia General Assembly is available on the following county Web site: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/2006legisprogram.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/2006legisprogram.pdf) or by calling the Office of the County Executive at 703-324-2531, TTY 711. ■

## Legislative Information System (LIS)

The Virginia General Assembly web site was originally developed in response to legislative initiative HJR482 (1995), which directed the Department of Information Technology and the Division of Legislative Automated Systems "to develop a prototype for providing access to the Legislative Information System through the Internet." The prototype system was successfully implemented and the results were reported to the General Assembly in House Document 25 (1996). From the prototype's foundation the current production system was re-designed and vastly improved.

Users will find a wide array of legislative information contained at this site. Included is general information about the legislative process and its participants as well as the full text, summaries, status history of bills and resolutions and schedules of activity. Full text searching is also available for the Code of Virginia, Virginia Administrative Code, Rules of the Supreme Court, Bills and Resolutions, and House and Senate Documents. Several legislative agencies provide information about their organizations and topics of interest related to their function. Links to other state legislative information systems on the internet are also available.

The LIS web site provides users with a help page that provides suggestions on how to navigate the LIS. Some of the suggestions on how to navigate the web site include step by step ideas; how to accurately enter a bill into the database; the various ways on how to search the web site; and many more helpful suggestions!

The Virginia General Assembly Legislative Information System (LIS) is available on the following Web site: [www.leg1.state.va.us/lis.htm](http://www.leg1.state.va.us/lis.htm). ■

## Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Budget Hearing *April 3, 4 & 5*

The Office of the County Executive will propose to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors the budget for the county, early February. The Board welcomes residents to participate during the public hearing at the budget meeting scheduled for **April 3, 4 & 5**. The budget hearing will be held in the Board Auditorium in the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, in Fairfax.

Supervisor Smyth welcomes Providence residents to attend the Providence District Budget Workshop on March 9 at Fairhill Elementary School at 7 p.m. Staff from the Department of Management and Budget will be on hand to present the County Executive's budget proposal, discuss the budgetary process, provide guidance on citizen participation as well as respond to questions from the audience.

More information is available by calling 703-560-6946, TTY 711 or on the following county Web site: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/Upcoming\\_Events.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/Upcoming_Events.htm). ■

## Meet the Providence District Representatives to the Virginia House of Delegates



Delegate Bulova  
37<sup>th</sup> District



Delegate Callahan  
34<sup>th</sup> District



Delegate Hull  
38<sup>th</sup> District



Delegate Shannon  
35<sup>th</sup> District



Delegate Scott  
53<sup>rd</sup> District

## Meet the Providence District Representatives to the Senate of Virginia



Senator Devolites-Davis  
District 34



Senator Howell  
District 32



Senator Saslaw  
District 35



Senator Whipple  
District 31

## VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY



The 1776 Virginia Constitution confirmed our bicameral legislature, which consists of the House of Delegates and Senate of Virginia. The present state Constitution, adopted in 1970, provides that the House of Delegates shall consist of 90 to 100 members and the Senate shall consist of 33 to 40 members. All members of the General Assembly are elected by qualified voters within their respective House and Senate districts. The terms of office are two years for members of the House and four years for members of the Senate. Members may not hold any other public office during their term of office. The General Assembly's chief responsibilities are to represent citizens in the formulation of public policy, enact laws of the Commonwealth, approve the budget, levy taxes, elect judges and confirm appointments by the Governor.

More information on elected officials is available via the following County Web site: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/Elected\\_officials.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/Elected_officials.htm) or by calling the Office of the Electoral Board at 703-324-4735, TTY 711 or The Office of the General Registrar at 703-222-0776, TTY 711. ■

## The Dillon Rule

In order to fully appreciate the Dillon Rule and its profound impact on Fairfax County, a brief discussion of the Rule merits some newsletter space. In 1872, an American jurist - John Forrest Dillon - wrote *Municipal Corporations* while on the federal bench. Dillon explained that in contrast to the powers of states, which are unlimited but for express restrictions under the state and federal constitution, municipalities function on powers that are granted to them. Dillon's perspective of the scope of municipal power came to be known as the "Dillon Rule," which states that municipal governments only have the powers that are expressly granted to them by the state legislature.

So what is the significance of the Dillon Rule for Fairfax County? When authority is not explicit, the county is obligated to seek "enabling legislation" from the state legislature that will allow the county to conduct its business. Such "enabling legislation" can range from human services to land use issues that touch the lives of all the residents in Fairfax County at one time or another. If "enabling legislation" is not attained or if the authority in question has not been expressly authorized by the state or the Constitution, or is not clearly implied from a power that has already been authorized, it is presumed that the municipality does not have the power and any action taken without authorization may be deemed unlawful. ■

***Subscription to the Providence Online –  
Providence District e-newsletter- is  
available on the following county Web site:  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/email/lists](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/email/lists)***

## Save the Date

### **Providence District Budget Workshop**

*hosted by Providence Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth*

March 9 at 7 p.m.

Fairhill Elementary School

3001 Chichester Lane, Fairfax

### **Senior Tax Relief Workshop**

March 15 & April 5

*Please call 703-560-6946, TTY 711 to make an  
appointment for this workshop*

### **Women's Voices Forum**

#### **Fairfax County Commission for Women**

March 29 at 9:30 a.m.

12000 Government Center Parkway

### **Seventh Annual Providence District Environmental Workshop**

*hosted by Providence Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth*

April 1 at 9 a.m.

Fairhill Elementary School

3001 Chichester Lane, Fairfax



More information on Save the Date events is  
available on the following county Web site:  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/Upcoming\\_Events  
.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/Upcoming_Events.htm) or by calling the Providence District  
Supervisor's Office at 703-560-6946, TTY 711. ■

## The Road to Richmond

Tucked away into a corner of the County Executive's office, a small group of staff is engrossed in its work on the County's legislative agenda. At the heart of the effort is the Board of Supervisor's Legislative Program, which has been highlighted in this supplement issue, for the upcoming Virginia General Assembly in Richmond. With the General Assembly session kicking off on January 11, 2006, the Fairfax County's Government Relations (GR) team, led by Legislative Director, Susan Mittereder Ed.D., will travel from Monday to Friday between Fairfax County and Richmond. Susan Mittereder is assisted by Legislative Liaison, Claudia Arko; Deputy County Attorney, Karen J. Harwood; Transportation Coordination and Funding Chief, Tom Biesiadny; and Human Services contractor, Sue Rowland. ■

# Must-Have Phone Numbers

**Providence Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth**

Telephone: 703-560-6946 / Fax: 703-207-3541 / TTY: 711

Adult Protective Service 703-324-7450/ Child Protective Services 703-324-7400

Suicide Crisis Hotline: (703) 527-4077 Rape Crisis Hotline: (703) 360-7273

<b>Adult Education</b>	703-227-2200	<b>Alcohol/drug abuse services</b>	703-359-7040
<b>Animal Shelter</b>	703-830-1100	<b>Child care</b>	703-449-9555
<b>Consumer Affairs</b>	703-222-8435	<b>Courts</b>	703-691-7320
<b>Dept. of Motor Vehicles (DMV)</b>	800-435-5137	<b>I-66 Disposal Sites</b>	703-631-1179
<b>Emergency</b>	911	<b>Fastran</b>	703-222-9764
<b>Fire/rescue</b> (non-emergency)	703-691-2131	<b>Gang Unit-Police</b>	703-246-4548
<b>Human Services</b>	703-222-0880	<b>Office for Women</b>	703-324-5730
<b>Park Authority</b>	703-324-8700	<b>Police</b> (non-emergency)	703-691-2131
<b>Tax Information</b>	703-222-8234	<b>Recreation Classes</b>	703-324-5550
<b>Recycling InfoLine</b>	703-324-5052	<b>School-Age Child Care Program</b>	703-449-8989
<b>School information</b>	703-246-2502	<b>Senior Citizen Information</b>	703-324-5411
<b>Traffic Tickets</b>	703-246-3764	<b>Trash Pick-up (County)</b>	703-802-3322
<b>VDOT</b>	703-383-VDOT	<b>Voting Information</b>	703-222-0776
For any number listed here or elsewhere in TTY, please call 703-803-7914 TTY or the 703-222-0880 voice intake number.			

**Providence District Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth**

**Fairfax County Board of Supervisors**

8739 Lee Highway

Fairfax, VA 22031

703-560-6946, TTY 711

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## ***The Providence Report***

